The Defence forces take appropriate measures for the safety and security of its personnel including women. Any complaint of sexual harassment of women officers is viewed seriously and is investigated and dealt with in accordance with relevant provisions of respective Services Acts.

Crash of Sukhoi aircraft

†1988. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the crash of Sukhoi aircraft near Jaisalmer on 30th April the flying of Sukhoi aircraft was discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons for granting them permission for flying again just after three weeks;

(c) the outcome of the investigation of the crashed Sukhoi aircraft;

(d) whether these aircrafts are fully safe and whether these planes will be proved effective in modern defence strategy; and

(e) the news of crashing of MiG-21 fighter planes also keeps coming, the compulsion of keeping MiG-21 in fighters fleet and whether Government is considering to phase them out?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Subsequent to the crash of Sukhoi-30 MKI of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on 30.4.2009, flying of the fleet was stopped for three weeks to ascertain the cause of the accident. The issues derived from preliminary investigation, after the crash, were addressed and flying was cleared. The SU 30 MKI aircraft is a modern fighter aircraft that has performed very well.

(e) Phasing out of aircraft is based on the operational requirements, airworthiness of the fleet and residual life. This is periodically reviewed and action are taken accordingly.

Logistic support to paramilitary forces

†1989. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence Ministry is planning to open any centre to provide logistic support to paramilitary forces in Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether such a centre is also planning to neutralize the publicity mechanism of Maoists;

(c) whether the State Government is providing necessary facilities; and

(d) by when the above mentioned centre will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.